--- 5 Cigars - "Series of 1965" - *imperforate* - 19 x 22½ mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

--- "General Cigars", Montreal - in 5 mm. Gothic three-digit vertical red - from 1965-70 ---

--- using a thin 2½ mm. Gothic reversed company code 10D-2 **---**

The catalogue lists the ***control-free*** thirty cigar "Series of 1960" black strip ***without control numbering*** as follows:

RG-716 - 5 cigars, black, "Coat-of-Arms, coarse roulette, on composite mesh wove - without control numbers

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The five cigar **RG-716** and the eight cigar **RG-724** both run from **230** to **277** - a total of 48 stamps. If they ran monthly, they finished with **277** in August 1974 - then **230** can be dated as September 1970.

Judging by the cancellations on **RG-681** "General Cigars" had reached **280** in September 1965. If these numbers began anew with **230**, the introductory date would thus be October 1965. The code reversal from 2-10D to 10D-2 also seems to date from late 1965.

The cancellation sequence on **RG-716** in the collection is complete (★with 48 stamps) from **230** to **277**. It is unlikely that it extends very far in either direction past these limits. Initially in 1965 the imperforate green **RG-653** also saw concurrent use. *The 'cancellation collection' contains the following examples*:

★**RG-716** - 5 cigars, *imperforate*, coded 10D-2 / **230** by "General Cigars", Montreal

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1965	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**230**	**231**	**232**
1966	**233**	**234**	**235**	**236**	**237**	**238**	**239**	**240**	**241**	**242**	**243**	**244**
1967	**245**	**246**	**247**	**248**	**249**	**250**	**251**	**252**	**253**	**254**	**255**	**256**
1968	**257**	**258**	**259**	**260**	**261**	**262**	**263**	**264**	**265**	**266**	**267**	**268**
1969	**269**	**270**	**271**	**272**	**273**	**274**	**275**	**276**	**277**	---	---	---

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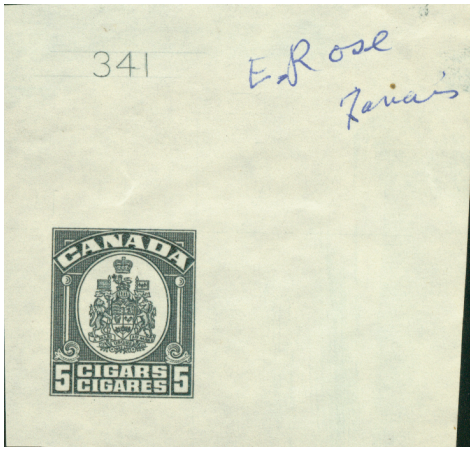
I find it interesting that practically all of the later new cigar issues used by "General Cigars" seem to begin their cancellation sequence with **230**. Why? I have noticed that the company as listed on the cigar boxes goes "B. Houde" - "Houde & Grothe" - "General Cigars" - "Imperial Tobacco Sales" - "General Cigars".

Lee Brandom introduces the series as from 1965, however "Albert Cigars", Toronto [**50E-7**] did not begin to use the **RG-716** until 1971. When was "Albert Cigars" founded? "Benson & Hedges" [**34-10D**] began using **RG-716** in 1967.

--- RG-716 DP - 5 Cigars - “Series of 1965” - small Coat-of-Arms - 19 x 22½ mm. design ---

The following die proof - **341** - is *from the collection of Fritz Angst*, and is recess printed on paper with 0.0033” ribs. Manuscript “E. Rose” (designer) and “Fanias” (engraver).



RG-716 DP - 5 cigars, die proof # 341, in colour of issue.

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1965 \ 10D-2 \ 5 cigars - Coat-of-Arms],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
October 23rd 2013, JBH